

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:UNIDO, AORG

SUBJECT: UNIDO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KHANE VISITS DEPARTMENT

1. DR. ABDERRAHMAN KHANE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION SINCE JANUARY 1, 1975, EXCHANGED VIEWS ON JUNE 18 WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, CHARLES ROBINSON, IO ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ROBERT BLAKE, AND IO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ROY MOREY. DR. KHANE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY VIENNA SENIOR ADVISOR, AZMI AFIFI, WHO LARGELY GUARDED HIS SILENCE, AND NEW YORK UN LIAISON OFFICER, ARON AIZENSTAT, WHO SPOKE FREELY IN ALL MEETINGS.

2. OVERALL USG ECONOMIC POLICY: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON
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ELABORATED ON RECENT ACTIVITY OF USG IN HELPING TO

CREATE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO REALISTICALLY SOLVE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRODUCER AND CONSUMER NATIONS ON ENERGY, FOOD AND COMMODITIES. ROBINSON SAID THAT THE USG WAS VERY AWARE OF THE LDC'S SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT IMPROVING THEIR ECONOMIC CONDITION AND THAT THE USG WAS PREPARING POSITIVE RESPONSES THAT WOULD FULLY RECOGNIZE DC AND LDC ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE. HE INVITED UNIDO PARTICIPATION IN REALISTIC PRACTICAL

SOLUTION OF DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT OF INDUSTRIALIZED AND NON-INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS.

3. CANDID COMMENTS ABOUT ATMOSPHERICS: ROBINSON, BLAKE AND MOREY ALL SUGGESTED THAT OPEN-MINDEDNESS OF US TO JOIN AND SUPPORT UNIDO AS PART OF NEW SERIES OF US INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION INITIATIVES COULD BE UNDERMINED IF FLOW OF G-77 CONFRONTATION POLEMIC CONTINUES UNABATED. KHANE INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS, BUT IMPLIED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH A LESSENING OF THE RHETORIC IN MANY INSTANCES. HE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO DISTINGUISH SECRETARIAT AS NEUTRAL INSTRUMENT FROM GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS AS POLICY SPOKESMEN FOR UNIDO. DR. KHANE EMPHASIZED THAT FULLY EFFECTIVE UNIDO REQUIRES ACTIVE US PARTICIPATION AND VOLUNTEERED TO MEET WITH LEGISLATIVE AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

4. SPECIALIZED AGENCY STATUTES: KHANE AND AIZENSTAT ANTICIPATED RAPID TIMETABLE FOR FINALIZATION OF UNIDO STATUTES AS FOLLOWS: LATE JUNE RELEASE BY SYG OF DRAFT STATUTES (E/5711), JULY CONSIDERATION BY ECOSOC, SEPTEMBER DISCUSSION BY THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF GA, OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER NEGOTIATION, AND FINALIZATION BY CLOSE OF 30TH GA DECEMBER 1975. BLAKE AND MOREY WARNED THAT IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, ANY STATUTES RESULTING FROM SUCH RUSHED SCHEDULE WOULD PROBABLY CONTAIN PROVISIONS WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE RATIFICATION BY US SENATE. CITING MORE DELIBERATE PACE OF WIPO AND ITO DEVELOPMENT TO SPECIALIZED AGENCY STATUS, MOREY SAID USG WILL PROPOSE 30TH GA APPOINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP TO PREPARE TEXT FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION BY 31ST GA AND USG WILL SERIOUSLY COMMIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITSELF TO HELP PRODUCE STATUTES WHICH WILL ATTRACT US BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN UNIDO AND US SENATE RATIFICATION.

5. BUDGET: KHANE STATED THAT HE HAS NO PROBLEM WITH PROPOSED VOTING PROCEDURE ON BUDGET MATTERS WHICH GIVES WEIGHT TO DC'S.

6. PERSONNEL:

A) KHANE SUGGESTED HIS INTENTION TO ACHIEVE BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN DC AND LDC PERSONNEL IN SECRETARIAT. THIS APPARENTLY DOES NOT INDICATE REDUCED US PERCENTAGE OR LESS FAVORABLE POSITIONING BECAUSE IN LATER DISCUSSION HE ARGUED FOR US PERSONNEL AT ALL LEVELS IN UNIDO IN ORDER TO ASSURE US INTEREST IN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION. HE ADDED HE HOPED US AND OTHERS WOULD NOT INSIST ON PARTICULAR POSITIONS FOR THEIR NATIONALS.

B) IN REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUERY ABOUT HIS STATEMENT HE "NOW" PREPARED TAKE ON BURNS, KHANE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT UNMINDFUL OF BURNS' PERSONAL SITUATION AND THAT AS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE HE WAS PREPARED TO HIRE BURNS IF HE WAS STILL AVAILABLE WHICH HE SINCE FOUND OUT IS NOT THE CASE. HE HAD NO POSITION, AS SUCH, FOR BURNS AND IS NOT INTERESTED IN OTHER CANDIDATES FOR THIS NON-EXISTENT JOB.

C) KHANE REITERATED THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A GOOD US UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR TO OVERSEE RESEARCH AND STUDIES BUT SAID THIS WOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL HIS REORGANIZATION PLAN AND ACQUISITION ADDITIONAL D-1/2 POSTS. IF ORGANIZATION REMAINS AS IS, HE SEES NO OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANOTHER US D-2.

D) WHILE KHANE ALLUDED TO PROPOSED REORGANIZATION PLAN, HE DID NOT SUPPLY SPECIFICS.

E) KHANE REAFFIRMED HIS INTENTION RETAIN ROTHBLUM FOR ONE YEAR BUT IN HIS OFFICE VICE TCD.

F) ON SUBJECT OF ITD, WE RAISED OUR INTEREST IN A DEPUTY DIRECTORSHIP AND ALSO FERTILIZER SECTION CHIEF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHEN VERGHESE DEPARTS. OUR GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH US STAFFING IN ITD ALSO WAS MENTIONED.

G) OUR INTEREST IN INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT SECTION CHIEF POST ALSO MENTIONED AS WELL AS IN-HOUSE US CANDIDATES. KHANE PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF THEIR NAMES AT WHICH POINT AFIFI VOLUNTEERED THAT FAORO IS "BEST AMERICAN IN UNIDO".

7. ACTION VIENNA: REQUEST MISSION FOLLOW UP WITH KHANE FOR SPECIFICATIONS ON RESEARCH AND STUDIES POST TO ASSIST DEPT IN TAKING EARLY RECRUITING ACTION. AMBASSADOR BLAKE RECOMMENDS, DR. KHANE IN FULL AGREEMENT, THAT WHENEVER FEASIBLE VIENNA MISSION ARRANGE FOR CODELS TO MEET WITH DR. KHANE TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH CONSTRUCTIVE, OPERATIONAL FACETS OF UNIDO.

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